

Suggested Pacing & Assignments for Projects



Introduction to National History Day Week 1-2

- Explain what NHD is, the theme, and what student expectations will be.
- Introduce thesis statements, primary and secondary sources, and annotated bibliographies – provide examples of each for students.
- Introduce sample topics – these can come from content you intend to teach through the semester or year.
- Topic selection activity – have students bring in a newspaper or magazine and point out topics that relate to the theme.

Article analysis/Preliminary topic chosen Week 2-3

- Have students determine their broad topic of interest and choose and read two articles/chapters related to it.
- Their response to the sources should identify and describe the author's thesis, evaluate their use of evidence (i.e. what stats, examples, data support their thesis), and explain if the author was successful or not.
- They should address how the article/chapter helped them in their research.

Primary Source Analysis Week 3-4

- Introduce students to places to find primary sources: public and university libraries, Library of Congress, National Archives, Kentucky Historical Society, and Chronicling America.
- Have them find at least two primary sources related to their preliminary topic.
- They should read and analyze the sources and write an annotation for them.
- Their annotations should address: the type of source, its subject, bias of the author, and how it supports their research.

Article/Source Analysis Week 4-5

- Students should find two more secondary and primary sources each as related to their topic.
- They should submit annotations for each source.
- They should be beginning to narrow their topic focus.

Final topic and initial thesis Week 5-6

- Students should have narrowed their focus from their initial broad topic.
- They should submit a provisional thesis statement.

- Students should submit a revised annotated bibliography for the eight sources they have up to this point.

Revised thesis/article analysis

Week 6-7

- Students should submit annotations for two more primary and secondary sources each.
- They should submit a revised thesis based on teacher feedback.

Outline

Week 7-8

- Thesis statement
- Main supporting points with topic sentences
- Should include which primary sources will be their evidence
- Annotated bibliography

Rough draft of paper

Week 9-10

- Five- to seven-page paper that has a thesis, three to five supporting points, conclusion, and annotated bibliography.
- This paper will provide the text for whatever project type they choose.

Final draft of paper

Week 10-11

Determine project type

January

Work on projects

January/February/March

Competition

March/April